GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2796
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005
INDO-US CO-OPERATION IN OIL AND NATURAL GAS SECTOR
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought the assistance of USA for enhancing oil and gas exploration in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (d): Indo − US Energy Dialogue has been initiated. The Oil and Natural Gas Working Group under this dialogue has started discussions on the possible collaboration between India and United States of America (USA) on the issues of Research & Development in Gas Hydrates, Oil and Gas, Alternative Fuels, Coal Bed Methane, besides developing standards. Further, it was decided that the two countries will sign an agreement on Exchange of Information relating to Hydrocarbon Sector between the Department of Energy of USA and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Another dialogue has been initiated between India and USA through the US-India Business Council for technical and commercial collaboration in the area of expanding the knowledge base, Improved Oil Recoveries (IORs)/Enhanced Oil Recoveries (EORs), technical know-how for the Deccan Trap and commercial partnerships between US Oil majors and independent and Indian Oil Companies.